

RETURN

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To an order of the House, of the 31st January, 1917, for a copy of all correspondence between any Member of the Government and Sir Thomas Tait referring to his appointment to, and resignation from, the National Service Board.

OTTAWA, September 8th, 1916.

Sir THOMAS TAIT,
Montreal, Que.

Would like to see you in Ottawa respecting an important matter at your earliest convenience. Kindly advise when I may expect you.

R. L. BORDEN.

Telegram.

ALGONQUIN HOTEL, N.B., September 10, 1916.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN,
Ottawa, Ont.

Unfortunately owing annual meeting my coal company and other important business at Minto, cannot be Ottawa until Monday eighteenth. In meantime perhaps you can write me here.

THOS. TAIT.

OTTAWA, September 11, 1916.

Dear SIR THOMAS TAIT,—Thanks for your telegram. The subject which I desired to discuss with you relates to the appointment of a Director General of Recruiting, under the Order in Council recently passed, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

It is probable that the title will be changed to Director General of National Service.

The objects of the Order in Council, briefly summarized, are as follows:—

(1) To obtain the largest number of recruits available in this country, having regard at the same time to the necessity of maintaining the agricultural, industrial and commercial stability of the Dominion.

(2) For that purpose to systematize and co-ordinate all existing recruiting agencies, whether official or unofficial.

(3) To establish an authority which shall have the power and the duty of determining whether the services of any man of military age are more valuable to the State in his present occupation than in military duties under present conditions; and either to permit or forbid his enlistment according to the determination so reached.

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(4) To establish an authority for the issuing of badges to the following class of persons:—

- (a) Men honourably discharged from the Expeditionary Force.
- (b) Men who have sought to enlist and have been pronounced medically unfit for military service.
- (c) Men whose services to the state in their present occupation are more valuable than in military service, when that determination has been made by the proper authority.

My colleagues and I are of opinion that you would fulfil and discharge worthily and adequately the duties of Director General, and it was for the purpose of asking you to undertake those duties that I desired a conference. We would be grateful if you would take the subject into your immediate consideration and inform me by telegram of your decision as soon as convenient.

With best wishes, believe me, dear Sir Thomas Tait.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Sir THOMAS TAIT,
Algonquin Hotel,
St. Andrews, N.B.

Telegram.

OTTAWA, September 11, 1916.

Sir THOMAS TAIT,
St. Andrews, N.B.

Thanks for telegram. I have sent full particulars by letter, which should reach you to-morrow.

R. L. BORDEN.

Telegram.

OTTAWA, September 14, 1916.

Sir THOMAS TAIT,
St. Andrews, N.B.

Private. I would be grateful for reply as soon as convenient as the matter is somewhat urgent.

R. L. BORDEN.

Telegram.

ALGONQUIN HOTEL, N.B., September 14, 1916.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN,
Ottawa, Ont.

Just returned from Minto. Would like discuss matters with you before deciding. If I see you Ottawa, Monday, will that be soon enough?

THOS. TAIT.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 87

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL SERVICE,
OTTAWA, October 12, 1916.

DEAR SIR ROBERT BORDEN,—In view of what has occurred in the case of Mr. G. M. Murray, who had been offered by me and who had accepted the position of secretary of "National Service," and of that incident as indicative of what may be anticipated in connection with the future organization and work of "National Service," I feel compelled, after serious consideration, to relinquish the position of Director General of National Service, and I therefore do now resign from that position.

I am leaving Ottawa to-morrow, but I shall be glad to return as soon as my successor is appointed to transfer the business to him and to afford him any information within my knowledge.

I thank you for the honour done me and the confidence shown in me by you in appointing me to such a high and responsible position as that of Director General of National Service and, with the highest personal regard for yourself, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

THOS. TAIT.

The Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN, G.C.M.G.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Ont., October 13, 1916.

DEAR SIR THOMAS TAIT,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 12th instant. It came somewhat as a surprise, as you had not given me in our interview of last evening an intimation of any such intention.

Under the circumstances I have no alternative but to accept your resignation, and in doing so permit me to convey my thanks for your acceptance of the position in the first instance at my request.

While I do not venture to question a decision which must rest upon your own judgment, you will permit me to say that in my opinion there was nothing in the incident which has occurred that should have impelled you to take so serious and precipitate a decision.

With best wishes, believe me,

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Sir THOMAS TAIT,
Ottawa.

